

2000 Forestry Incentives Program



Customer Focus—

William Hobbs from Golconda, Illinois, was faced with the need to change careers when he was laid off at the coal mine where he had worked. He owned some timberland and decided to begin a small wood products business making cabinets, furniture, flooring, and specialty wood products, mostly from timber grown on this land. FIP has allowed Mr. Hobbs to improve his forestland, through timber stand improvement, so it will continue to produce the timber needed to supply his business in the future. Mr. Hobbs appreciates both the financial assistance he has received from the NRCS and the technical assistance from his Illinois DNR Forester. He thinks FIP should be better funded so that more forestland owners could benefit from the program.

Illinois Summary

Overview

Illinois forestland owners continue to take advantage of cost-share opportunities offered through the Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) to improve their forestlands for a variety of land uses. Illinois has received an annual allocation of only \$28,000 for several years but in FY 2000, 39 landowners applied for FIP funding, totaling more than \$65,000. NRCS assisted landowners to develop 22 contracts, which obligated nearly \$33,000. Demand for FIP cost-share is nearly double the funding that was available in 2000. Interest in FIP could be much greater if a higher allocation would make it worthwhile to publicize the program more widely.

Accomplishments

By far the most popular FIP practice is timber stand improvement, accounting for 37 out of 39 applications received and all 806 acres of FIP contracts that were approved. Tree planting accounted for the other 2 applications. Timber stand improvement can lead to many benefits in addition to improving the value of a future timber crop, as one of the two FIP success stories below illustrate. Wildlife habitat, forest health, aesthetics, recreational opportunities, and even water quality and reduced soil erosion can be accomplished by a properly planned timber stand improvement practice.

Outlook

Timber stand improvement is critically needed in forestlands throughout Illinois to correct overcrowded conditions that have resulted from years of fire exclusion in our oak-hickory forests. Other federal cost-share programs such as CRP, WRP, WHIP, and the Illinois Forestry Development Act have focused on tree planting, leaving little or no funding for timber stand improvement. Future wildlife habitat and timber resources, as well as other forestland uses, depend upon good management today. An expanded Forestry Incentives Program could help reach these goals.

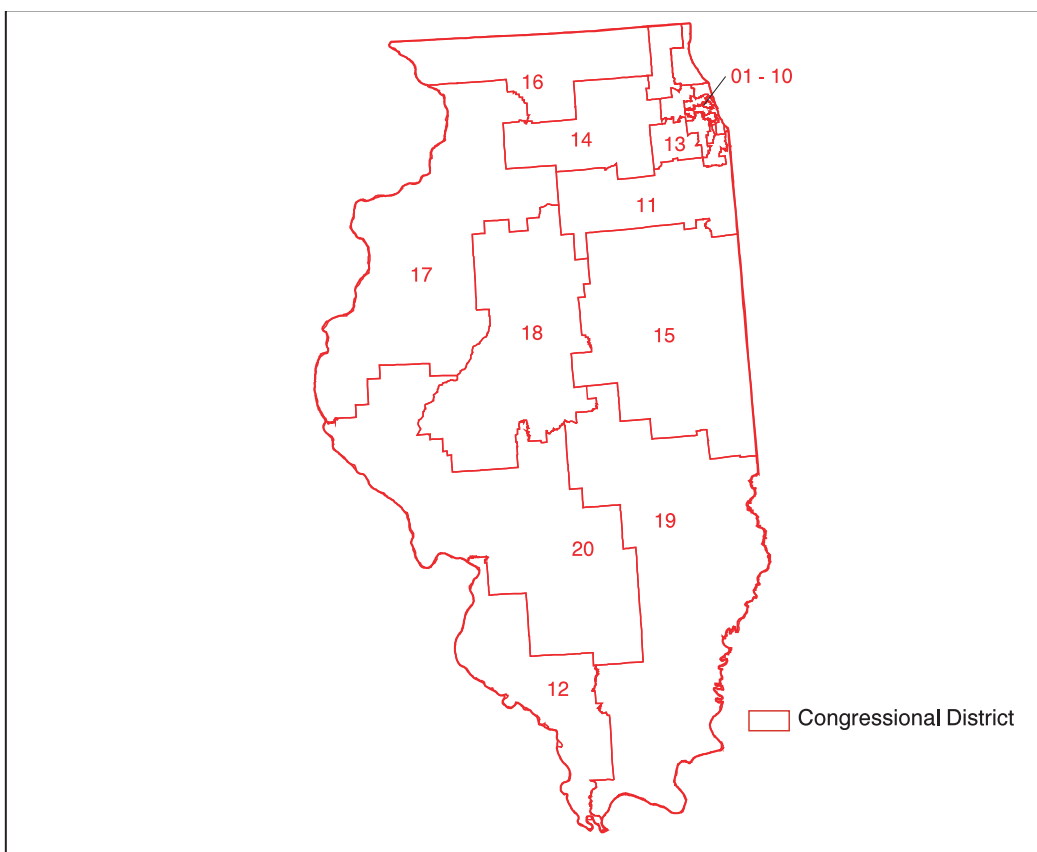
State contact

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FIP helps former coal miner make career change.

Illinois Congressional Districts



Illinois FIP Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2000		Cumulative Total (97-00)	
	Obligated dollars	Number of contracts	Obligated dollars	Obligated contracts
12	\$0	0	\$4,680	3
17	8,725	8	8,725	8
19	18,058	10	82,018	51
20	5,655	4	22,815	15
Totals	\$32,438	22	\$118,238	77

For 1997-1999 Obligated Dollars, assumes an average of 40 acres/contract, FP2 (tsi) practice, average cost-share rate of \$39/ac.

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